

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

At page 1, at line 10, please replace the first paragraph with the following rewritten paragraph:

Cross-Reference to Related Applications

The present application is a divisional application of U.S. serial application No. 09/696,740, filed October 26, 2000, which is a continuation-in-part application of U.S. serial application No. 09/605,873, filed June 29, 2000, which in turn, is a continuation-in-part application of U.S. serial application No. 08/919,477, filed August 28, 1997. The contents of the above-mentioned applications are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety.

At page 6, line 17 to page 7, line 5, please replace the paragraph with the following rewritten paragraph:

In a second embodiment, a bifunctional aminopolycarboxylate system containing an iodinated group is prepared by first synthesizing a peptide unit consisting of two differentially protected amino groups and unnatural D-amino acid units in the peptide mer. Sequential elaboration of the amino groups by adding an aminopolycarboxylate unit and then adding a protein cross linker completes the synthesis of the bifunctional aminocarboxylate. The peptide contains one or more unnatural D-tyrosine units. The amino acid units of the peptide are attached via non-metabolizable amide bonds. The antibody-binding group can be an amino residue (for site-specific attachments to oxidized carbohydrate of MAbs), an imidate or isothiocyanate (attachable to lysine groups of proteins), maleimide, bromo- or iodoacetamide residue (specific to thiols on MAbs) and the like. The number of amino acid units in the peptide is two to ten, preferably three, of which at least one is D-tyrosine. The amino acid(s) immediately following the last D-tyrosine unit, and which are used to introduce antibody-binding cross-linkers, can be natural L-amino acids. The aminopolycarboxylate unit can be iminodiacetic acid, nitrilotriacetic acid, EDTA (ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid), DTPA (~~diethylenetriaminetetraacetic~~ diethylenetriaminepentaacetic acid), TTHA (triethylenetetraminehexaacetic acid), DOTA (1, 4, 7, 10-tetraaza cyclododecane N, N', N'', N'''-tetraacetic acid) or various backbone-substituted versions thereof, such as, for example,

isothiocyanatobenzyl-EDTA/DTPA/TTHA/DOA, among numerous other aminopolycarboxylates and their derivatives which can be readily envisaged.